



NEWS RELEASE

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Kernan awards more than \$4 million for statewide building trade education

More than 5,000 workers to be trained at 86 sites across state

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – Supporting the statewide Building Trades initiative, today Gov. Joe Kernan announced a multi-million dollar grant to upgrade the skills of more than 5,000 Hoosier workers.

Administered by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, the \$4,185,770 Incumbent Worker Training grant will be used to provide training to 5,814 union apprentices and journey level workers at 86 locations throughout the state. To support the effort, the Building Trades Joint Apprenticeship and Training committees across the state are contributing \$136,317,834.

"This multi-year apprenticeship program has and will continue to have a positive impact on the skilled building trades in Indiana," said Kernan. "The construction industry is expected to grow by up to 13 percent by the end of the decade, and with such a large scope, the positive effects of this training will help provide the skills our Hoosier workers need to fuel that growth for years to come."

Training will be provided through Ivy Tech State College, with participants earning either associate degrees in applied science or a technical certificate in apprenticeship technology as a result. Areas of study include sheet metal working, carpentry, millwrighting, bricklaying, masonry, glazing, painting, plumbing and pipefitting, iron working, and teledata training among others. Apprentices will also earn a journeyperson's card when the training concludes.

"Offering training that leads to an advanced degree or certification that gives a worker an advantage in the industry is incredibly important – and that's what this program does," added the governor. "By increasing the level of education and skill of these workers, turnover rates will decrease, productivity will increase, while the marketability of each worker is greatly enhanced."

The Building Trades Initiative, founded and directed by Ivy Tech State College, is an apprenticeship program designed to give workers in the building trades the opportunity for educational training and advanced certification. The building trades apprenticeship program offers a broad range of on-site construction experience and is provided at convenient locations across the Indiana.

All Indiana businesses are eligible to apply for Incumbent Worker Training grants. The grants are designed to create a world-class workforce in Indiana through continuous improvement to the skill levels of Hoosier workers.

Through its various programs and initiatives, DWD is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies create new jobs and improve employee skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, works with the state's 27 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures, and operates the a statewide job placement service.

For more information on this or other DWD programs, contact Jeff Harris at 317/232-3396 or visit the web site at www.workforce.IN.gov.

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